Tax rebates for promotion of exports

† 2309. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax rebates are given as economic incentive by Government in order to promote exports in the country;

(b) if so, whether economic aid of Rs. 41,029 crores was given as incentive during 2004-05 which was 9 per cent of total value of exports;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount provided as incentive during the above period under 'Special Agriculture Measure Scheme' under the above said economic incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) One of the stated strategies of the Foreign Trade Policy is neutralizing incidence of all levies and duties on inputs used in export products, based on the fundamental principle that duties and levies should not be exported. Major schemes under Foreign Trade Policy have been formulated to neutralize such levies and duties which cannot be considered economic incentive or economic aid.

(b) and (c) As explained above, Major schemes of Foreign Trade Policy do not incentivise exports, and only strive to meet the duty neutralization needs of the exporters.

(d) No Duty credit or amount was provided under the scheme Vishesh Krishi Upaj during the year 2004-05.

Approval to Maharashtra Especial Economic Zone and Designated Area Act, 2004

2310. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has sent a Maharashtra Special Economic and Designated Area Act, 2004 for the administrative approval of Government;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this approval will be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Maharashtra Special Economic Zones and Designated Areas Bill, 2004 was sent by the Maharashtra Government for approval of the Government of India.

(b) The Bill seeks to enact a special legislation to provide for the development, operation, maintenance, management and administration of Special Economic Zones and other specially designated areas in the State of Maharashtra for promoting growth of exports and economic activities in such zones or areas.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra was informed on 11.11.2005 that the Parliament has passed the Speical Economic Zone Act, 2005. Since the Central Act will prevail over the State Act, even if it is enacted, the Maharashtra Special Economic Zone and Designated Areas Bill, 2004 has been closed by the Minsitry of Home Affairs. However, if the State Government requires any amendment to the Central SEZ Act, 2005 to meet their local requirements, they have been advised to forward an amending Bill for consideration of the Government of India.

Chinese goods in Indian market

† 2311. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China made items are prevailing at large scale in the country, particularly in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the imported items in the last three years and what provisions have been laid by Government to import items from China;

(c) whether the demand of Chinese items has increased in the country, particulalry in the North-Eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what measures have been taken to protect the market of India made items?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.